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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

(d) REVIEW OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY ORGANS, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, AS WELL AS OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, ON THEIR ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PROGRAMMES UNDER THE CONVENTION

(e) REVIEW OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION REGARDING THE FINANCING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION BY MULTILATERAL AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY CONCERNING DESERTIFICATION THAT RELATE TO ITS FOUR FOCAL AREAS, AS SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE 20, PARAGRAPH 2(b), OF THE CONVENTION

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

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* ICCD/COP(4)/1.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By decision 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation, the Conference of the Parties (COP):

(a) Encouraged relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to provide information, as appropriate, on their activities in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention; the information provided should include summaries, in principle not exceeding four pages;

(b) Encouraged Parties to make full use of the expertise of competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the preparation and dissemination of relevant information;

(c) Requested that reports be submitted to the secretariat at least six months prior to the session at which they are to be reviewed;

(d) Requested the secretariat to compile the information provided by organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on measures taken or planned to support the implementation of the Convention.

2. By decision 4/COP.3, paragraph 1(a)(iv) and (d), and recalling decisions 9/COP.1 and 2/COP.2 on its programme of work and 10/COP.1 on review of the implementation of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties, at its third session:

(a) Decided to include in the agenda of its fourth session the review of information provided by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as by other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on their activities in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention;

(b) Decided to include in the agenda of its fourth session the review of available information regarding the financing of Convention implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, as specified in article 20, paragraph 2(b) of the Convention;

(c) Invited the relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to report on measures taken to assist action programmes of those affected developing country Parties reporting for the session.

II. SYNTHESIS OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE REPORTS SUBMITTED

3. Pursuant to decisions 4/COP.3 and 5/COP.3, the secretariat sent reminders to organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and to accredited intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, inviting them to submit their reports. The following summaries have been prepared by the secretariat based on contributions received up to the time of finalization of this report. Non-governmental organizations mostly channelled their reports through their national focal points directly into their respective national reports. Further contributions received will also be made available in due time to COP.

A. Organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system

Department of Public Information

4. During the reporting period, the United Nations Radio covered the question of desertification in its news bulletins and magazines on current affairs, in various languages. It produced 8 magazine and 12 feature programmes on the subject of desertification, and provided extensive coverage, in particular during the third session of COP to UNCCD. The Video Section produced the *World Chronicle* programmes, and a total of 267 press releases on desertification were issued regarding the following regions: Asia: 12, Latin America: 8, Caribbean: 46; and other affected country Parties: 201.

United Nations Environment Programme

5. UNEP support to the implementation of the Convention in Latin America and the Caribbean included the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the UNCCD secretariat in 1998, and of a host agreement with the UNCCD secretariat and the Government of Mexico in 1999, for the establishment and operation of the UNCCD Regional Coordination Unit (RCU).

6. UNEP and the UNCCD secretariat agreed to develop a joint annual work programme for the Unit within the framework of the Regional Action Programme and the activities approved by country Parties of the region in their annual meetings. In particular, support has been provided to the following regional priorities identified by country Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean: a regional information network; establishment and operation of RCU; indicators model for a dryland ecosystem in Latin America; harmonization of public policies; technical support to regional and interregional meetings; technical assistance to develop and implement a project proposal for the sustainable development and management of priority watersheds in Central America as well as of the Gran Chaco Americano; technical assistance for the implementation of the Africa-Latin America and the Caribbean Platform of cooperation; and technical support for a coordination meeting leading to the elaboration of national and regional reports.

7. In this framework, UNEP committed financial support in kind for 1999 of a total amount of US$121,500, as well as financial support for the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for a total of US$50,000. Up to 2000, UNEP has provided financial support in kind and cash totalling US$78,500 for the operation of RCU and support of the elaboration of national, subregional and regional reports to COP 4.

8. In Asia, UNEP contributed US$45,000 in 1999 towards the establishment of the Asia UNCCD Regional Coordination Unit in Bangkok, as well as assistance to country Parties of the region for the preparation of national reports to COP 4. UNEP also provided technical and substantive support in organizing the Dubai International Conference on Desertification (2000).

United Nations Development Programme

9. UNDP has taken several measures in support of UNCCD implementation in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean through its various programmes and specialized units. These include support through UNDP country offices, the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO), and/or other UNDP programmes and funds. Several UNDP country offices have allocated significant resources as an integral part of the country programmes to support the implementation of National Action Programmes (for example, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Pakistan,

Peru and Syrian Arab Republic). A number of UNDP country offices have assigned technical advisors as focal points for environmental issues including follow-up on UNCCD matters.

10. UNSO is the main UNDP unit responsible for promoting dryland development in affected countries and for mainstreaming dryland issues in other UNDP programmes and initiatives. UNSO manages the UNDP Trust Fund to Combat Desertification and Drought. Since 1995 US$18 million have been mobilized for UNCCD implementation. To date, over 50 affected UNDP programme countries have benefited from financial and technical support to CCD implementation at national and subregional levels. In addition, UNSO is supporting key thematic areas including Drought Preparedness and Mitigation (DPM), Environmental Information Systems (EIS) and gender mainstreaming focusing on strengthening the role of women.

11. UNDP operates through a number of additional instruments: the UNDP country programmes (Country Cooperation Frameworks) and the United Nations system-wide coordination mechanism i.e. United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF); assistance to the least developed countries to prepare papers for their round tables and the Human Development reports. Besides UNDP country programmes and support through UNSO, there are a range of special programmes and funds that include dryland development objectives in their activities. These include the UNDP Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme, Capacity 21, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and others. In supporting CCD implementation, UNDP/UNSO is collaborating with institutions such as UNEP; FAO; the World Bank; the Global Mechanism; the GEF secretariat; national and international non-governmental organizations. The report of UNDP includes considerations on key challenges facing the countries.

12. In Asia, UNDP is supporting dryland development in more than 22 countries through its various programmes and initiatives as indicated above. In Western Asia, UNDP/UNSO has initiated a programme (US$1.8 million), to support the implementation of the CCD in Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, and the Palestinian Territory. UNDP country programmes have allocated US$1.2 million in Iran (Islamic Republic of) and US$237,662 in the Syrian Arab Republic to support CCD implementation. UNDP/UNSO is also providing support to the Western Asia Subregional Action Programme (SRAP) process.

13. In Central and Eastern Asia, UNDP/UNSO has been supporting dryland development in China, India, Mongolia and Pakistan. In the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), UNDP/UNSO has provided technical and financial support to National Action Programme (NAP) processes in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Special attention has been given to stakeholder participation including capacity-building for local communities and non-governmental organizations on CCD related issues. UNDP is a partner in the Regional Action Programme (RAP) process, particularly offering assistance to monitoring and assessment and the development of indicators.

14. A number of UNDP programmes and units have been supporting dryland development activities in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. UNDP is supporting dryland development in more than 19 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean through various UNDP programmes and initiatives including country programmes as indicated above. In South America, UNDP/UNSO has provided technical and financial assistance to the NAP processes in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru, for some of these countries in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank. In Mexico, UNDP/UNSO has provided technical and financial assistance to awareness raising, capacity-building of civil society, and gender mainstreaming of the NAP process. Also relevant is the special programme focusing on small Caribbean island states. Assistance has been provided to innovative resource mobilization such as debt swap for the NAP processes. To bolster and complement the NAP processes, UNDP/UNSO has supported

the Chaco and Puna SRAP processes financially and technically. UNDP/UNSO has also assisted the UNCCD secretariat in the preparation and organization of one subregional as well as five regional conferences for Central America and the Caribbean.

United Nations Population Fund

15. As lead United Nations agency for population in the follow-up of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+5) and as task manager for population/demographics at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and follow-up implementation of Agenda 21, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has worked towards holistic approaches for the integration of population with development strategies, enhanced sexual and reproductive health, and greater advocacy for reproductive rights, gender equity and equality towards an enabling social environment that is sustainable and with a priority to eradicate poverty.

16. UNFPA assistance to strengthen national capacity for sustainable development and environment and population issues is carried out mainly through country programmes that include components to enhance policy planning, service and advocacy related activities. To advance the goals and objectives of those linked areas of ICPD+5, UNCED and UNCCD, UNFPA worked very closely with partners in the United Nations system in global and regional offices and through inter-agency forums and related programmes of several United Nations organizations.

17. Assistance has been provided at the country as well as regional levels to support holistic planning and analysis capacity, in particular, for long-term sustainability, to the regional Commissions, training institutions and initiatives and consortiums with targeted focus, such as food vulnerability, forest management, to highlight the interrelationships of population and sustainable development including the environment, water and desertification.

United Nations University

18. In its report, UNU recalled in particular its activities in the Asian region, including the development of a network of scholars, researchers and scientists on land-degradation issues, in collaboration with the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), FAO, the UNCCD secretariat, UNEP and UNESCO. In this framework, a series of workshops have been organized since 1998, and are planned through the years 2000 and 2001.

World Food Programme

19. In its report, WFP highlighted that its 1994-2000 activities in support of combating desertification in Latin America and the Caribbean benefited a total of nearly 200,000 persons. Activities included emergency assistance for families affected by "El Niño" or by Hurricane Mitch, as well as support for food security improvement for poor rural families in the dry zones. Projects include soil conservation and reforestation components, as well as agricultural rehabilitation and prevention of floods and drought.

20. WFP activities in Western Asia included support to participatory land improvement, reforestation, sustainable range land management, as well as development of economic activities that combine income enhancement of rural poor and environmental conservation.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

21. FAO support to the implementation of UNCCD in the Asia region and the Pacific focused mainly on the provision of technical support to national programmes in particular in China and in Iran (Islamic Republic of), as well as

to the regional thematic networks TPN1, TPN2 and TPN3. In addition, FAO continued to implement numerous activities directly related to combating desertification, including 20 field projects mainly addressing soil conservation, water management and agroforestry, in close collaboration with the main national, regional and international institutions concerned. FAO also provided technical assistance to regional networks, developed training programmes and prepared several technical publications.

22. In the region of Western Asia (Near East and North Africa), FAO field programmes consisted of almost 100 projects and programmes, including regional (inter-country) projects in 15 countries, of which a third were nationally executed. FAO also supported country initiatives aimed at linking country Parties of UNCCD (annex IV) to other Mediterranean countries. Such initiatives include, among others, efforts to improve synergy between three United Nations Conventions (UNCCD, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

23. FAO support to the implementation of UNCCD in the Latin America and the Caribbean region concerned mainly the provision of technical support to national programmes in Bolivia, Chile, Mexico, Peru, as well as to regional networks working on desertification issues; implementation of a survey of institutions and networks, in collaboration with the UNEP; preparation of a database on successful technologies on desertification control; and preparation of technical publications and training courses. FAO provided technical support to regional meetings organized by the UNCCD secretariat and other United Nations and intergovernmental organizations, and it continued to implement activities directly related to combat desertification including, for example, 29 field projects.

24. FAO support to UNCCD included support to the Global Mechanism, the UNCCD secretariat and the Committee on Science and Technology (CST). FAO established an ad hoc interdepartmental working group on desertification with the aim of harmonizing FAO support to the UNCCD process. This group started to compile existing statistical data related to drylands, launched a Web site on desertification, participated in discussions on benchmarks and indicators, and prepared the draft design of an "Overall assessment of desertification" (OAD). As regards institutional arrangements, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was signed. A memorandum of cooperation (MOC) between FAO and the CCD secretariat was also signed.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

25. The activities of UNESCO in combating desertification are carried out in the fields of its competence, especially in science and education. With the support of Italy and Switzerland, and in close collaboration with the UNCCD secretariat, UNESCO is preparing environmental education kits on combating desertification for teachers of primary schools, especially those in desertification-affected countries. The environmental education kits include case studies on real situations drawing on the experience of desertification-affected States Parties worldwide, as communicated to UNESCO and UNCCD by national focal points, non-governmental organizations and other accredited stakeholders. The kits will be produced in English, French and Spanish.

26. With regard to science, UNESCO, the UNCCD secretariat and desertification-affected country parties cooperate in building up the required scientific capacity in countries for the effective development of the Convention. This includes, *inter alia*, capacity-building in the form of training courses, field studies and UNESCO University Chairs, such as the one at the University of Yarmouk (Jordan) on Desertification. Emphasis is put on *in situ* conservation and the ecosystem approach being developed by the Convention on Biological

Diversity. Such efforts are carried out in particular in areas adjacent to protected areas, such as buffer and transition zones of Biosphere Reserves under the "Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme" and sites inscribed on the list of the World Heritage Convention for which UNESCO provides the secretariat.

27. The problem of water management in drylands is addressed by the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO with a view to ensuring sustainable use of freshwater resources. Traditional means of water retention and harvesting as well as other forms of traditional knowledge and practices to combat desertification are being addressed by several scientific programmes of UNESCO, in particular the IHP, the MAB Programme and the Programme on Management of Social Transformations (MOST). The results will directly benefit desertification and drought-affected countries.

World Meteorological Organization

28. Since 1994, WMO has organized/co-sponsored a number of activities supporting the implementation of UNCCD. The Thirteenth World Meteorological Congress (Geneva, May 1999) further expressed its support for the continuing collaboration and implementation of activities in support of the Convention, including the provision of appropriate scientific and technical support.

29. The fight against drought and desertification receives high priority in the Long-term Plan of WMO, particularly under the Agricultural Meteorology Programme, the Hydrology and Water Resources Programme and the Technical Cooperation Programme. WMO continues to actively involve the national Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and the regional and subregional meteorological centres and other bodies in the improvement of hydrological and meteorological networks and strategies for systematic observation, exchange and analysis of data, and monitoring of droughts; in assisting in the transfer of knowledge and technology; and in strengthening and intensifying research on the interactions between climate, the hydrological regime and desertification. Furthermore, the twelfth session of the Commission for Agricultural Meteorology (CAgM-XII) examined the relevant articles of the Convention and established a Working Group on Assessing the Impact of Desertification, Drought and other Extreme Meteorological Events to advise, among other things, on matters relating to the implementation of UNCCD.

30. In this framework, WMO participated in the Consortium of Partners approved by COP 1 to carry out a survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies, as well as in a number of regional and interregional meetings.

31. The support of WMO to the implementation of UNCCD includes financial support of SwF 20,000 for the preparation of national reports by affected Parties of Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Eastern Europe. WMO also contributed to capacity-building initiatives in the development of National Action Programmes and to information and awareness raising efforts through its own publications, as well as by supporting the reproduction of UNCCD information documentation. WMO also continued to second a senior expert to the UNCCD secretariat and provided support for hiring a general staff member to support the activities of the UNCCD secretariat.

32. Activities in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in other affected countries, include various seminars and workshops at the national, regional and interregional levels, supported and/or organized by WMO with a view in particular to reaching an integrated approach for the prevention and mitigation of environmental disasters.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

33. UNIDO highlights that its activities are only indirectly associated with combating desertification. For example, providing jobs in rural areas may tend to reduce encroachment by contributing to more permanent settlements; increasing rural incomes might tend to support moves to replace fuelwood as the major source of household cooking fuel by more environmentally sustainable alternatives. Similar processes might apply to more sustainable uses of other natural resources.

B. Intergovernmental organizations

European Community

34. EC funded projects relevant to addressing land degradation and desertification in regions other than Africa for a total of approximately €83 million. The majority of such activities range from soil stabilization and regeneration to water management, reforestation and training. No direct support was provided for the elaboration or implementation of National and Regional Action Programmes, as no direct request was received in this regard. The report highlights that all activities have been and are being carried out in accordance with the principles laid down in the Convention as regards in particular the bottom-up approach, the participation of non-governmental and community-based organizations and the enhancement of the role of women.

35. Partnership arrangements with the European Community have been signed by 30 countries in Asia and Latin America and 11 in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean over the past 20 years at a bilateral or regional level. These agreements provide, among other things, for cooperation on sustainable development and environmental protection. They have matching funding instruments: ALA Funds for Asia and Latin America and MEDA Funds for the Mediterranean (collectively referred to as ALA-MED), for approximately €295 million in the period 1990-1999. Other budget lines are also available, in particular for the promotion of sustainable development in developing countries, or for specific programmes such as LIFE and TACIS for action in the Mediterranean and in the Central Asian republics.

36. Scientific and technological cooperation with countries outside the European Union focused, among other things, on the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Since 1990, there have been over 70 research projects involving the developing countries, many of which are in Asia, Latin America and in the Mediterranean. In addition, all regions of the world benefit from coordinated research projects carried out directly by the European Commission through its Joint Research Centre (JRC) at the Space Applications Institute in Ispra (Italy). These activities focus on the use of satellite imagery for environmental monitoring and management. Many are directly relevant to desertification issues.

37. EC development cooperation in Asia since the late 1980s has had environmental components, particularly reforestation, better management of forest resources and fire-prevention measures. Ten projects have been co-funded in the drylands since the early 1990s with the respective Governments under the ALA agreements, mostly in India.

38. In Central and East Asia and in the Pacific, the Community's interventions have focused on water resource management and improvement in agricultural productivity. In south-east Asia the Community's attention has been drawn to set up fire-prevention measures. Approximately €144 million were committed to anti-desertification projects in Asia between 1992 and 1999.

39. Two relevant projects have been funded under the main ALA Funds in Latin America for a total cost of €17 million, concerning integrated rural development programmes in Chile and agricultural production of rural smallholders in Nicaragua. Eight other projects relating to desertification control in Latin America have been financed under the Environment and Tropical Forest budget lines during the period 1990-1999 at just under €6m.

40. The total amount committed to projects relevant to desertification and biodiversity in the Mediterranean was approximately €130 million. Twenty-four projects focusing on the management of water resources and remote sensing have been funded over the past 10 years in the southern and eastern Mediterranean. Support was provided to a network of universities undertaking research studies or training in the management of environmentally sensitive arid zones (Med-campus project). A regional programme was launched in 1999 for Western Asia at a cost of €4 million to control natural resources degradation and desertification.

41. A framework Short and Medium Term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP) for the region was launched in November 1997. It has five priority areas, one of which concerns desertification control. The sum of €810,310 was allocated from this programme in 1999 to combating desertification.

42. The European Community has contributed €60,000 to the CCD secretariat for the organization of a Workshop in Brussels on land degradation and desertification in Central and Eastern Europe.

Global Environmental Facility

43. The GEF report refers to "implementing the Action Plan on Land Degradation" and was submitted to the GEF Council in May 2000. It provides a summary of progress GEF, its implementing agencies, and other partners have made in accelerating the development and implementation of GEF eligible projects on land degradation prevention and control in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, in response to a request of the Council to the Secretariat and the implementing agencies to help countries prepare project proposals in the GEF focal areas that include land degradation measures, consistent with the action plan. The report covers a three-month period and indicates action being undertaken to accelerate activities already started, development of additional capacity to implement the action plan, mainstreaming land-degradation issues within the implementing agencies' programmes and developing new partnerships to more effectively address issues related to land degradation.

44. The GEF secretariat has established a new programme management team on land and water that will, among other things, oversee the development of activities related to land degradation. The new operational programmes on Integrated Ecosystem Management and the proposed Operational Programme on the Conservation of Biodiversity Important to Agriculture will also expand the opportunities for countries to better address issues related to land degradation. Following the adoption of the action plan in December 1999, the GEF secretariat is currently actively involved, among others, in a dialogue with the Global Mechanism of the Convention to Combat Desertification and with the UNEP in developing land-degradation activities, as they relate to GEF focal areas in West Africa.

45. The report includes an updated list of GEF financed projects approved in 1999 with land-degradation components in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe. The report also includes a synthesis of action taken by each Implementing Agency on their individual activities in implementing the action plan, focusing on operationalizing the linkages between land

degradation and the GEF focal areas; strengthening public policy and enablin environment for addressing land degradation; and engaging key stakeholders an enhancing the catalytic role of GEF in mobilizing additional resources for land degradation activities through substantive partnerships.

C. Non-governmental organizations

Arbeitsgruppe Desertifikation

46. Arbeitsgruppe Desertifikation is the German network of non-governmenta organizations on desertification. Its 38 members include non-governmenta organizations, private sector organizations and scientific institutions, an they have undertaken activities aimed at improving strategic cooperation amon German actors; implementing pilot projects in Africa to encourage the exchang of information, programming and networking; undertaking research on Sahara vegetative cover and soil surfaces; and promoting the use of appropriat technologies.

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